

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO :

DATE: 15 September 1948

FROM :

SUBJECT: Basic Reserve Officers' Refresher Course

1. I attended the Basic Reserve Officers' Refresher Course at the CIC Center, Camp Holabird, Maryland. It lasted from August 9 to August 21 inclusive. There is no doubt that it was a basic course. I was the only non-CIC member of my group and had no trouble comprehending the material covered. The other officers in my group, being all former CIC people, felt somewhat insulted that the course was so elementary.

2. The first morning that we were there was spent in processing, we received physicals, etc. In the afternoon we were given the history and mission of CIC, and its relationship to the other intelligence agencies.

3. A total of 17 hours were devoted to administrative subjects, intelligence procedures, administrative regulations, military correspondence, investigative reports, etc.

4. Thirty hours dealt with investigative subjects. These included four hours dealing with security, explaining the seven changes in AR 380-5 which have occurred since the end of the war and how these have affected the CIC mission. Three hours of Observation and Description, or how to use the Bertillon portrait parle system of identification. The five hours on Investigations were delivered by a hot air artist who managed to antagonize the entire class. He dealt exclusively in generalities, trivialities and elementary theories. The six hours that covered Interrogations and Informants were handled by the most competent committee we were exposed to. They presented some excellent demonstrations on interrogative techniques, use of interpreters, and a three-act drama that covered an entire case showing the DOs and DON'Ts of correct interrogations. There were four hours on Evidence, what it is, how to recognize it, and how to prepare it for shipment (the CIC uses a complicated three-wrapper system with five receipts and three letters of instructions).

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5. We had three hours of technical subjects, one hour being devoted to fingerprints and their classification. This lecture was delivered at great speed, in a low voice, by a character with a speech impediment which made him unintelligible past the third row (I sat in the fifth). During the other two hours we were briefly exposed to the use of various recording devices, the Speak-O-Phone and its recorder, and the Amertape recorder. These devices we teach ~~here~~ much more extensively, in addition to others the CIC appears to be unfamiliar with.

6. We spent nine hours on weapons, including one day on the firing range where we shot the .45 automatic pistol. The standard weapon of the CIC is the .38 revolver, but it was not mentioned during this weapons course.

7. There were four hours devoted to legal subjects, and these were spent in explaining to the class the legal aspects of treason, sedition, subversion, disaffection, and what action CIC may take in reference to them.

8. Nine hours were devoted to the CIC detachment problem. Here the class was split up into four small detachments and we were presented with the problems that confront this type of unit. There were interrogations, investigations, use of surveillance techniques, etc.

9. All in all, out of what I learned there, I'm quite certain that nothing could be used to improve the training of our students. The school made no pretense of teaching anything except a Basic Refresher course and admitted at every turn that instructors were very badly needed (I agree). The training aids were charts and some of them were pretty well done, but they dealt solely with the flow of paper work and how reports should be filled out, etc.